

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

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R 031356Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2120
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 934

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, YO

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS; BOR AND BUCIM COPPER MINES

REF: A) STATE 24964 B) STATE 31445

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL B, EMBASSY CONTACTED SVETISLAV TODOROVSKI, DIRECTOR GENERAL, BUCIM, AND ZARKO STANKOVIC, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, BOR. BOTH ENTERPRISES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING MACGOUGALL TO EXPLORE AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION, BUT WISH TO BE APPRISED OF TIMING OF HIS VISIT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.
 2. KENNECOTT SHOULD BE APPRISED OF FACT THAT US FIRM ARTHUR MCKEE AND CO HAS BEEN AWARDED CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING FOR BUCIM PROJECT, AND THAT TWELVE MCKEE ENGINEERS WILL SOON BE WORKING ON SITE.
 3. EMBOFFS HAVE HAD TWO RECENT CONVERSATIONS CONCERNING KAISER'S PROPOSAL FOR VELIKI KRIVELJ PROJECT.
 4. AT KAISER'S REQUEST, EMBASSY CONTACTED JOVAN KOSTIC, VELIKI KRIVELJ PROJECT DIRECTOR, WHO INFORMED US BOR IS PROCEEDING QUOTE FULL STEAM UNQUOTE WITH PROJECT. BOR RECENTLY JOINED WITH COPPER PROCESSORS TO FORM AN ASSOCIATION YUGOBAKAR. ONCE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS DETERMINE DOMESTIC COPPER NEEDS, BOR WILL BEGIN CONTRACTING KRIVELJ
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PROJECT. KOSTIC, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION KAISER

PROPOSAL, ASSURED EMBASSY OF BOR'S INTENTION TO PURCHASE
US EQUIPMENT.

5. IN A CONVERSATION WITH A PROMINENT YUGOSLAV BANKER,
WHO HAD EXCELLENT CONTACTS AT BOR, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT
BOR HAD FOUND KAISER PROPOSAL QUOTE VERY EXPENSIVE UNQUOTE,
AND THAT BOR EXECUTIVES FELT THEY THEMSELVES COULD PUT
TOGETHER A BETTER PACKAGE. BANKER POINTED OUT THAT BOR
CAN PURCHASE MINING EQUIPMENT ONLY FROM US FIRMS, BUT
FLOTATION PLANT CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM FRANCE AND
GERMANY, WHICH OFFER CREDITS ON MUCH BETTER TERMS THAN ARE
NOW AVAILABLE FROM EXIMBANK. BANKER INDICATED THAT BOR IS
DEFINITELY CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF NON-MINING PORTION OF
PROJECT FROM OTHER THAN US FIRMS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: MEPD IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN EXACT
DATES FOR MACGOUGALL VISIT TO THAT EMBASSY CAN MAKE APPOINT-
MENTS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT BOR AND BUCIM.

: NOTE: BOTH ENTERPRISES ARE LOCATED IN REMOTE AREAS AND
ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO CONTACT EXCEPT BY LETTER.) EMBASSY
LEAVES IT TO MEPD'S DISCRETION WHETHER TO APPRISE KENNECOTT
OF INFO CONTAINED IN PARAS 4 AND 5.
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